

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed June 17, 2005.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for recognizing in paragraphs 2-3 of the Office Action that claims 5-11 are allowable. Claims 1 and 12 are amended.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, claims 1-4 and 12-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farley, et al., in LAN Times Guide to Security and Data Integrity, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,263,435 to Dondeti et al. (Dondeti). The Examiner's rejection on this ground is respectfully traversed.

Among the limitations of claim 1 which are neither disclosed nor suggested in the art of record is the requirement that a key management server device comprises a storage unit "for holding k encrypted keys used in the encrypted communication between said wireless access point and the plurality of wireless access terminal devices, where k is greater than 1." It is inherent that each of said wireless access points and the plurality of wireless access terminal devices possesses the k encryption keys and uses the k keys for encrypted communications between each other.

Dondeti discloses that a *single* data encryption key (DEK) is used by the system for conventional encrypted communications. "The sender sends the multicast data encrypted with the DEK to the group." Dondeti, col. 6, ll. 61-62. Thus, Dondeti discloses sharing one key, the DEK, among the members in a multicast group, where the sender sends encrypted communications to the members. Farley, discloses distributing a single key between a pair of devices communicating with each other. Therefore, neither reference discloses what is inherent in the claim, that is, a set of k encrypted keys used to encrypt and/or decrypt communications "between said wireless access point and the plurality of wireless access terminal devices" (*i.e.*, at least 3 devices in communications with each other). In the absence of any disclosure or

suggestion of this feature of the invention, claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

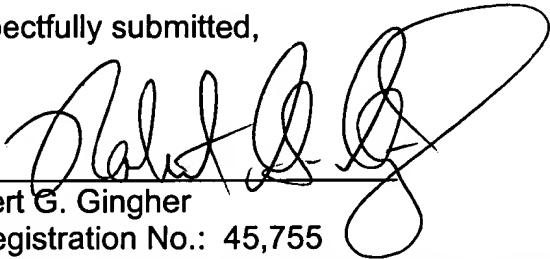
Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and include all of the limitations found therein, and are therefore allowable for the same reasons.

Claim 12 contains a similar limitation as claim 1, and therefore is allowable for the same reasons as that discussed in connection with claim 1. Claims 13-21 depend from claim 12 and include all of the limitations found therein, and therefore are allowable for the same reasons.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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